

REMARKS

II. Response to Restriction Requirement

At pages 2-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has required that the present application be restricted, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, to one of the following four (4) groups of claims:

- Group I: Claims 1 and 23-35, drawn to a method for producing molecularly imprinted microspheres;
- Group II: Claim 36, drawn to a method for screening;
- Group III: Claim 37, drawn to a method for conducting capillary electrophoresis; and
- Group IV: Claims 38-40, drawn to a product described as the molecularly imprinted microspheres according to claim 1.

In response, Applicants hereby elect the invention defined by the Examiner as Group I, Claims 1 and 23-35, drawn to a method for producing molecularly imprinted microspheres.

II. Response to Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has also required election of species for prosecution on the merits, as follows:

Because Group I is elected in response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants are further required to elect a single species from each of the following eight subgroups:

A single species of molecularly imprinted microspheres ("Subgroup 1"); a single species of functional monomers ("Subgroup 2"); a single species of cross-linkers ("Subgroup 3"); a single species of solvent ("Subgroup 4"); a single species of print molecules ("Subgroup 5"); a single species of polymerization induction ("Subgroup 6"); a single species of polymerization process ("Subgroup 7"); and a single species of size control ("Subgroup 8").

In response, Applicants hereby elect the following species:

In Subgroup 1, Applicants elect *anti-17 β -estradiol microspheres (as shown in Example 3)*.

In Subgroup 2, Applicants elect *MAA, methacrylic acid (as shown in Example 3)*.

In Subgroup 3, Applicants elect *TRIM (as shown in Example 3)*.

In Subgroup 4, Applicants elect *acetonitrile, non-aqueous, single-solvent system (as shown in Example 3)*.

In Subgroup 5, Applicants elect *17 β -estradiol (as shown in Example 3)*.

In Subgroup 6, Applicants elect *UV (as shown in Example 3)*.

In Subgroup 7, Applicants elect *free-radical (as shown in Example 3)*.

In Subgroup 8, Applicants elect *the size control including nucleation/particle growth process as described in claim 32*. With regard to Subgroup 8, Applicants further indicate the following: *the functional monomer/crosslinker/solvent and/or reaction conditions during polymerization were adjusted to control the growth; it intended to avoid aggregation of the microspheres; and the particles produced are monodispers*.

Claims 1 and 23-35 encompass the elected species.

CONCLUSION

The response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements has been made without prejudice or disclaimer to any of the non-elected subject matter. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to any of the non-elected subject matter.

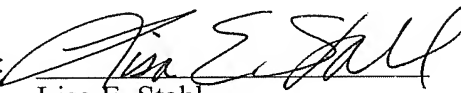
In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions related to this response, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: December 4, 2008

By: 
Lisa E. Stahl
Registration No. 56,704

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 838-6609